



# Tri-Valley

Opportunity Council, Inc.

## 2018 Tri-Valley Community Needs Assessment



**Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.**

*Community Action: Helping People. Changing Lives.*

# ***Characteristics and Service Needs of Low-Income Residents in Marshall, Norman, and Polk Counties***

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. is a non-profit community action agency headquartered in Crookston. In existence since 1965, Tri-Valley provides services in 84 counties in Minnesota and Northeast North Dakota with a primary service area of west Polk, west Marshall and Norman counties. The mission of Tri-Valley is to provide opportunities to improve the quality of life for people and communities.

## **Board of Directors Priorities**

### **Priority 1 – Improve/promote/ advance the objective of coordinating the various services for area preschool children with Head Start:**

- Increase the number of children served by Head Start in Marshall County.
- Increase the number of child care slots available in the service area
- Develop the area Early Childhood workforce.

### **Priority 2 – Improve/promote/advance the objective of keeping seniors in their homes and avoiding premature nursing home placement:**

- Caring Companion Program will aggressively market private pay opportunities.
- Reach out to county workers to increase referrals.
- Tri-Valley will increase its presence at area service provider meetings.

### **Priority 3 – Improve/promote/advance housing options in the service area:**

- A mitigation fund will be developed to help convince landlords to lease to hard to house individuals.
- Bring housing rehab resources to the service area.
- Enhance case management services for housing.

### **Priority 4 – Improve/promote/advance Family Engagement in the service area:**

- Develop new financial literacy trainings to compliment Four Cornerstones.
- Provide more opportunities to attend parenting classes in the service area.
- Continue work on a pilot project with the Council of Collaboratives to bring Family Navigators to area schools.

# Demographic Summary

## **Population**

Population change within the report area from 2000-2016 is shown below. During the fourteen-year period, total population estimates for the report area declined by -2.8 percent, decreasing from 48,966 persons in 2000 to 47,594 persons in 2016.

The greatest loss occurred in Norman County which experienced a -10.8% decrease in population, whereas Polk County experienced a positive change of 0.58%. Of our population, 6.28% are under the age of 5, 17.37% are age 5 to 17, 59% are 18 to 64, and 17.35% are over 64 years old. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)

## **Income**

According to the U.S. Census, median annual household incomes ranged from a low of \$50,893 in Polk County to a high of \$54,651 in Marshall County. The median income for the state of Minnesota is \$65,583. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates. 2016. Source geography: County)

## **Homeownership**

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 14,622 homeowners in the report area in 2016, and 77.23% owner occupied homes in the report area for the 5 year estimated period from 2012 - 2016. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)

## **Nutrition**

The report area showed that 3,236 students (or 41.87 percent) were eligible for free or reduced price lunches during the 2013 - 2014 school year, which is more than the Minnesota average of 38.1 percent. (Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data. 2015-16. Source geography: Address)

## **Ethnicity**

According to ACS 2012-2016 5 year population estimates, the white population comprised 94.74% of the report area, black population represented 1.1%, and other races combined were 4.16%. Persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 2.41% of the population. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)

## **Poverty**

2016 poverty estimates show a total of 6,090 persons living below the poverty level in the report area.. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 2.98%, compared to a national increase of 2.7%. According to the American Community Survey 5 year estimates, an average of 11.71 percent of all persons lived in a state of poverty during the 2012 - 2016 period. The poverty rate for all persons living in the report area is less than the national average of 15.11 percent. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: Tract)

According to the Tri-Valley Community Needs Assessment survey, poverty was seen as the biggest concern in the report area.

## **Child Care**

The number of children ages 0 - 5 potentially needing child care in the three county area is 3,056. The capacity of licensed child care providers for children 0 - 5 is 2,370. This shows a decrease of 228 spaces from last year. These numbers indicate that an estimate of 686 children and their families must find alternative sources of child care or that a parent does not or can not participate in the community workforce. Parents choosing child care which is not licensed will generally include unlicensed friends, family or neighbor care.

## **Unemployment**

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this one year period fell from 1,075 persons to 1,002 persons, a rate change of -0.21% percent. Overall, the report area experienced an average 3.8% percent unemployment rate in November 2017. (Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2017 - November. Source geography: County)

## **Overall**

Community perceptions indicate that this area has a high quality of living standard with ability to meet basic needs the greatest strength of the report area.

# The Good News

- The report area has higher rates of children staying in school and getting an associates degree as compared to the rest of the state. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)

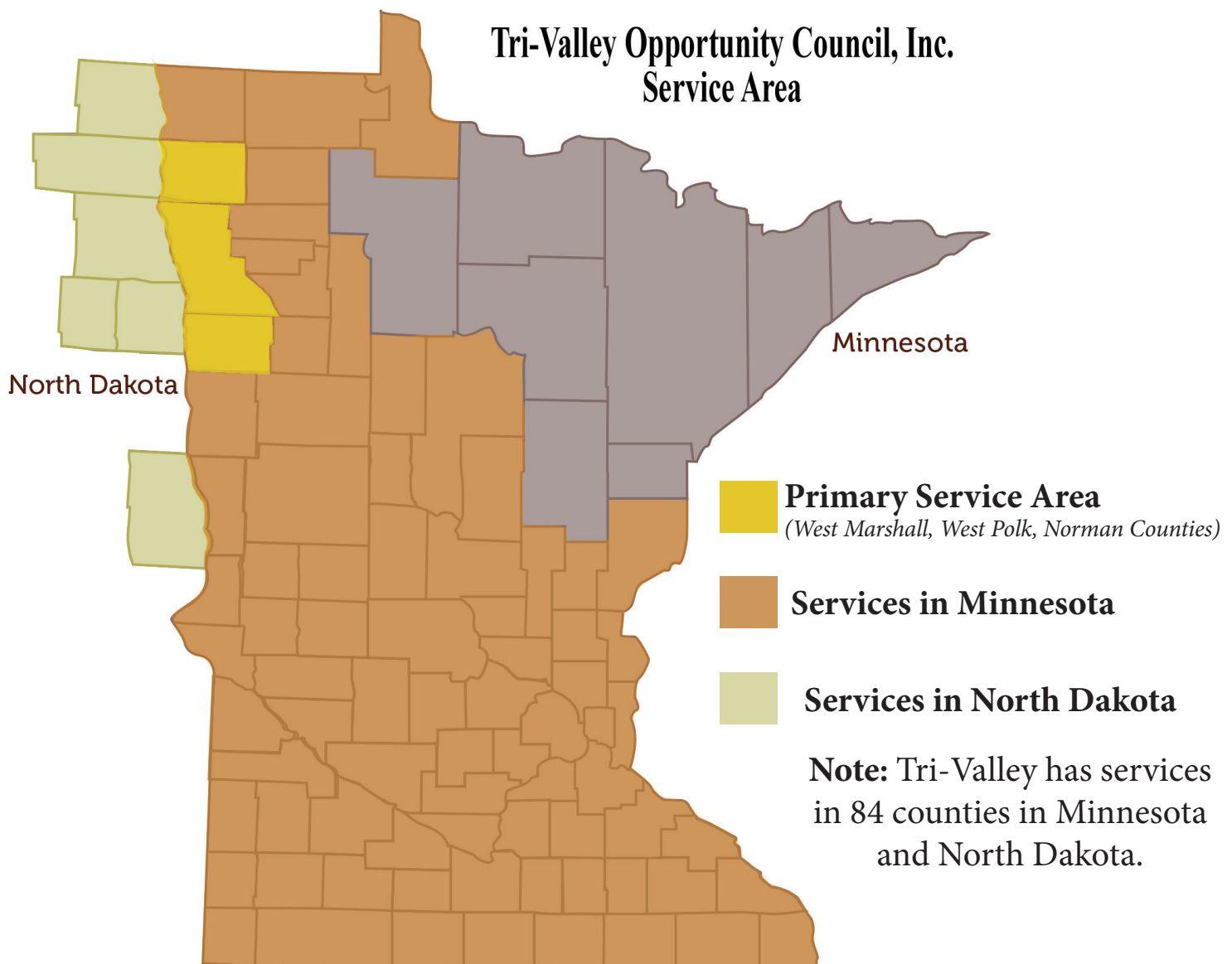
- The percentage of persons uninsured ranged from 5.3% in Polk County, to 6.8% in Norman County. The service area percentage of uninsured is 4.47% compared to the national average of 9.16%. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. 2015. Source geography: County)

- The report area has one of the lowest rates of Child Protective Services needs in the state in 2013. (Data Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota's Child Welfare Report for 2014)

- According to the Tri-Valley Community Needs Assessment survey, basic needs, education, and health care were seen as the biggest strengths of the report area.

- It is estimated that 7.2% of all households were living in poverty within the report area, compared to the national average of 11.3%. Of the households in poverty, female headed households represented 3.1% of all households in poverty, compared to 2.9% and 1.1% of households headed by males and married couples, respectively. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)

- The median commute time, according to the American Community Survey (ACS), for the report area is 13.69 minutes shorter than the national median commute time of 24.95 minutes.(Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)

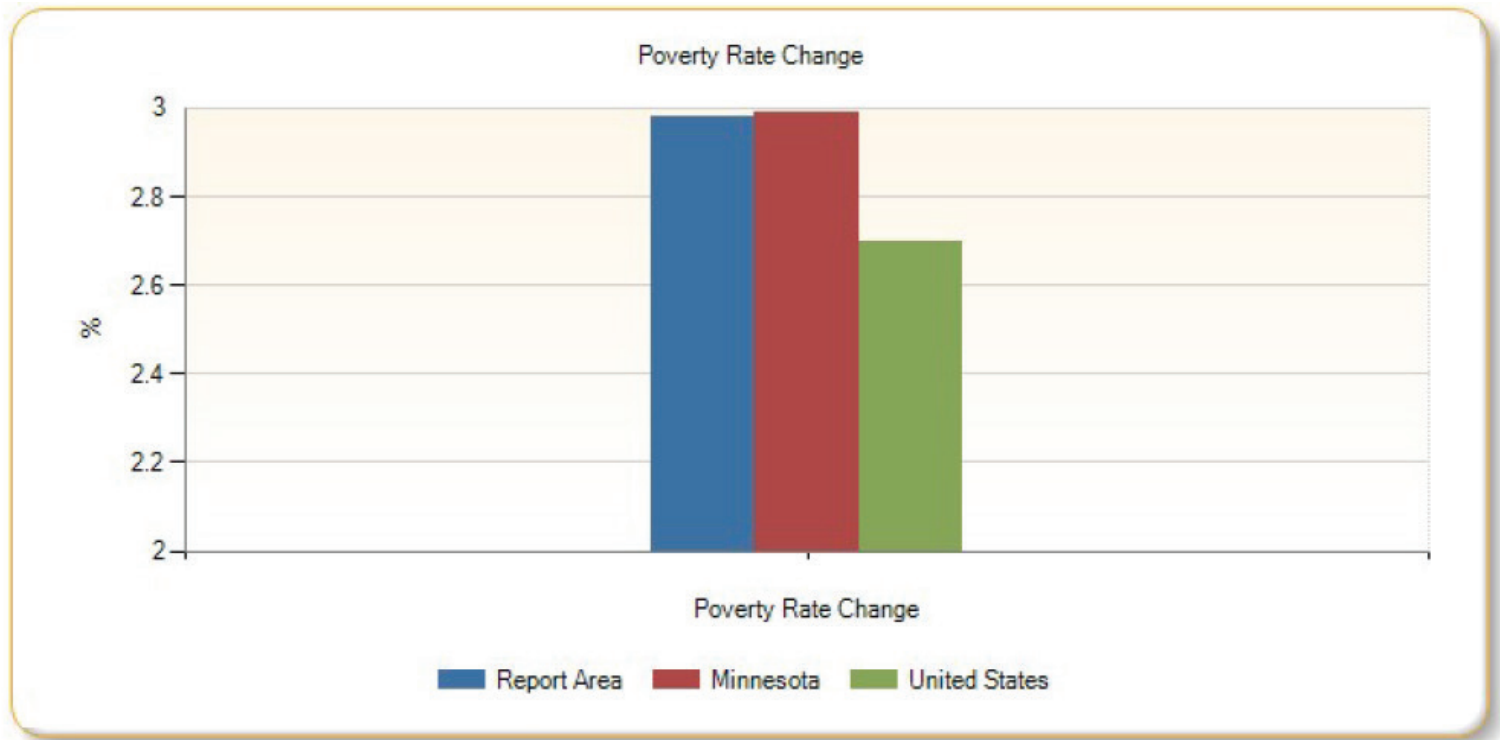




# Quality of Life Indicators

## POVERTY INCIDENCES (Rate Change 2000-2016)

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2000	Poverty Rate 2000	Persons in Poverty 2016	Poverty Rate 2016	Change in Poverty Rate 2000-2016
Report Area	4,828	10.25%	6,090	13.23%	2.98%
Marshall County, MN	877	8.9%	903	9.8%	0.9%
Norman County, MN	734	10.2%	777	12.1%	1.9%
Polk County, MN	3,217	10.7%	4,410	14.5%	3.8%
Minnesota	673,188	6.89%	1,063,585	9.87%	2.99%
United States	31,581,086	11.3%	44,268,996	14%	2.7%



(Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates. 2016. Source geography: County)

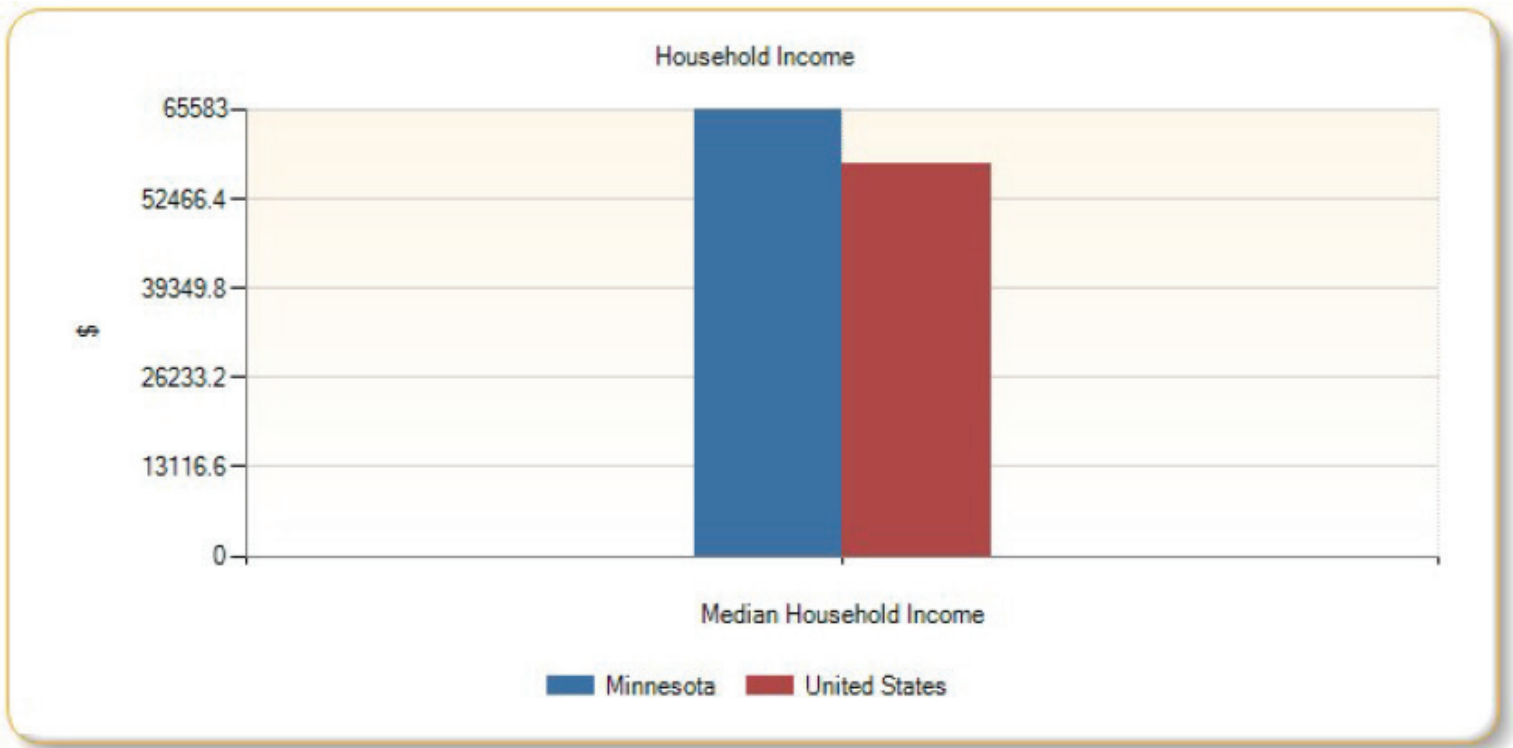
## Top Five Values Tri-Valley Demonstrates:

- #1 = Compassion
- #2 = Commitment
- #3 = Respect
- #4 = Fairness
- #5 = Efficiency

# Quality of Life Indicators

## MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME (2016)

Report Area	Median Household Income
Marshall County, MN	\$54,651
Norman County, MN	\$49,572
Polk County, MN	\$50,893
Minnesota	\$65,583
United States	\$57,617



(Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates. 2016. Source geography: County)

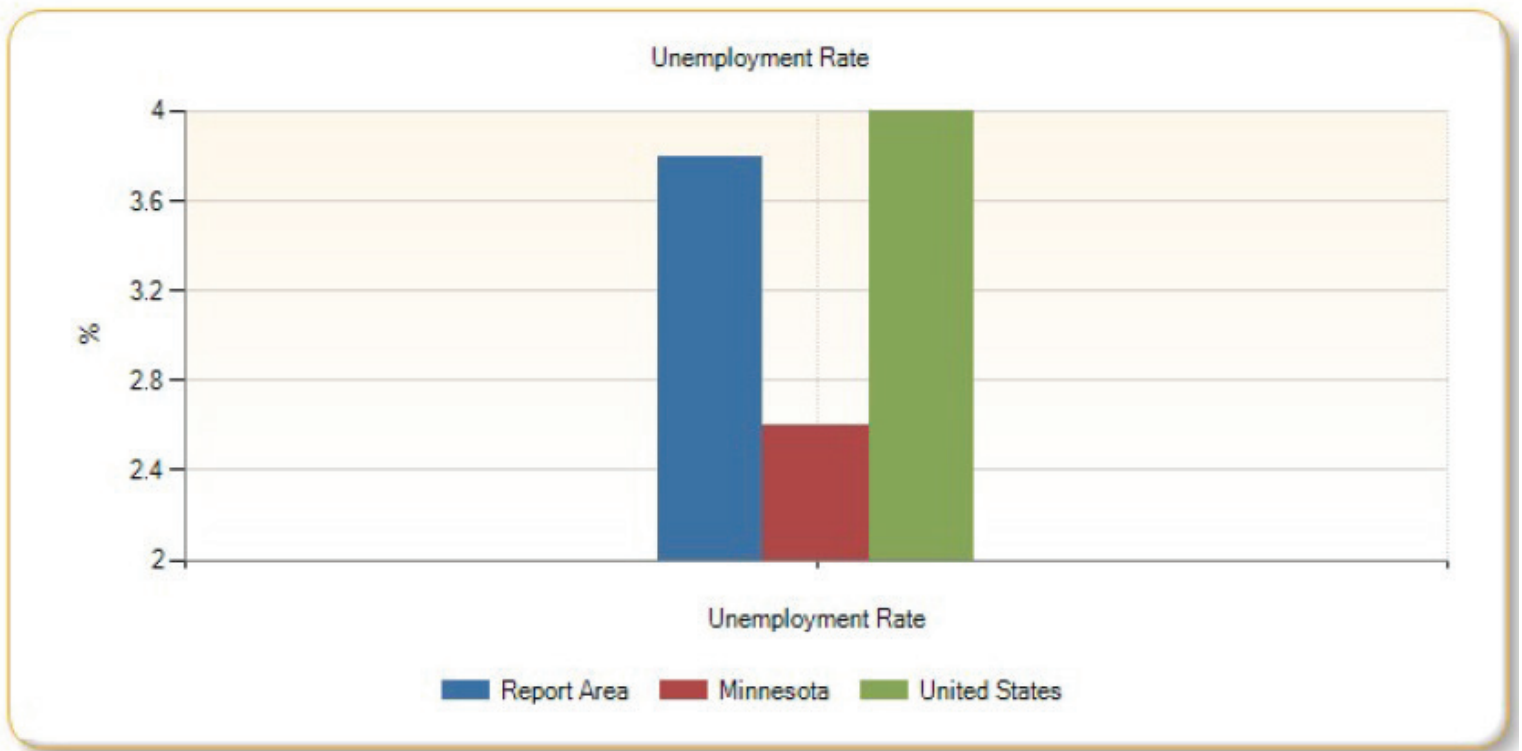
## Top 10 Strengths of the Report Area:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| #1 = Basic Needs           | #6 = Individual and Family Life         |
| #2 = Education             | #7 = Consumer Services                  |
| #3 = Health Care           | #8 = Community Services                 |
| #4 = Environmental Quality | #9 = Mental Health Care                 |
| #5 = Income Security       | #10 = Criminal Justice & Legal Services |

# Quality of Life Indicators

## EMPLOYMENT (November 2017)

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Report Area	26,257	25,255	1,002	3.8%
Marshall County, MN	5,687	5,333	354	6.2%
Norman County, MN	3,426	3,298	128	3.7%
Polk County, MN	17,144	16,624	520	3%
Minnesota	3,066,990	2,986,445	80,545	2.6%
United States	161,580,864	155,179,638	6,401,226	4%



(Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2017 - November. Source geography: County)

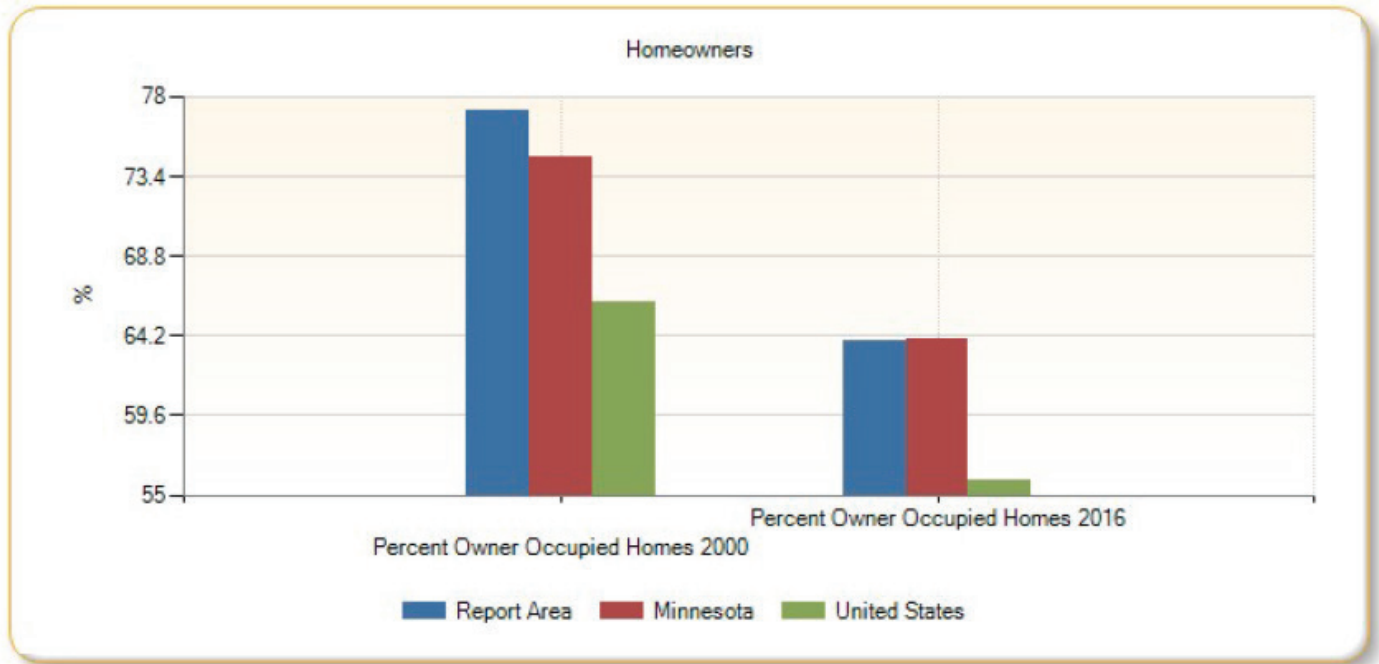
## Top 10 Weaknesses of the Report Area:

- |                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| #1 = Poverty                 | #6 = Unemployment or Underemployment |
| #2 = Affordable Medical Care | #7 = Substandard Housing             |
| #3 = Crime                   | #8 = Shortage of Child Care          |
| #4 = Affordable Housing      | #9 = Alcohol Abuse                   |
| #5 = Drug Abuse              | #10 = Medical Insurance              |

# Quality of Life Indicators

## HOMEOWNERSHIP (2000 - 2016)

Report Area	Owner Occupied Homes 2000	Owner Occupied Homes 2000	Owner Occupied Homes 2016	Owner Occupied Homes 2016
Report Area	14,814	77.23%	14,622	63.94%
Marshall County, MN	3,427	83.56%	3,238	67.57%
Norman County, MN	2,438	81%	2,193	64.52%
Polk County, MN	8,949	74.14%	9,191	62.61%
Minnesota	1,412,865	74.55%	1,525,611	64.02%
United States	69,815,753	66.19%	74,881,068	55.86%



(Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)

## Possible Report Area Needs Over the Next 12 Months:

- #1 = Finding a job where the employer offers benefits
- #2 = Finding a job which pays enough to meet your family's basic needs
- #3 = Finding quality child care providers
- #4 = Need for summer activities for older students and young teens
- #5 = Finding affordable health insurance

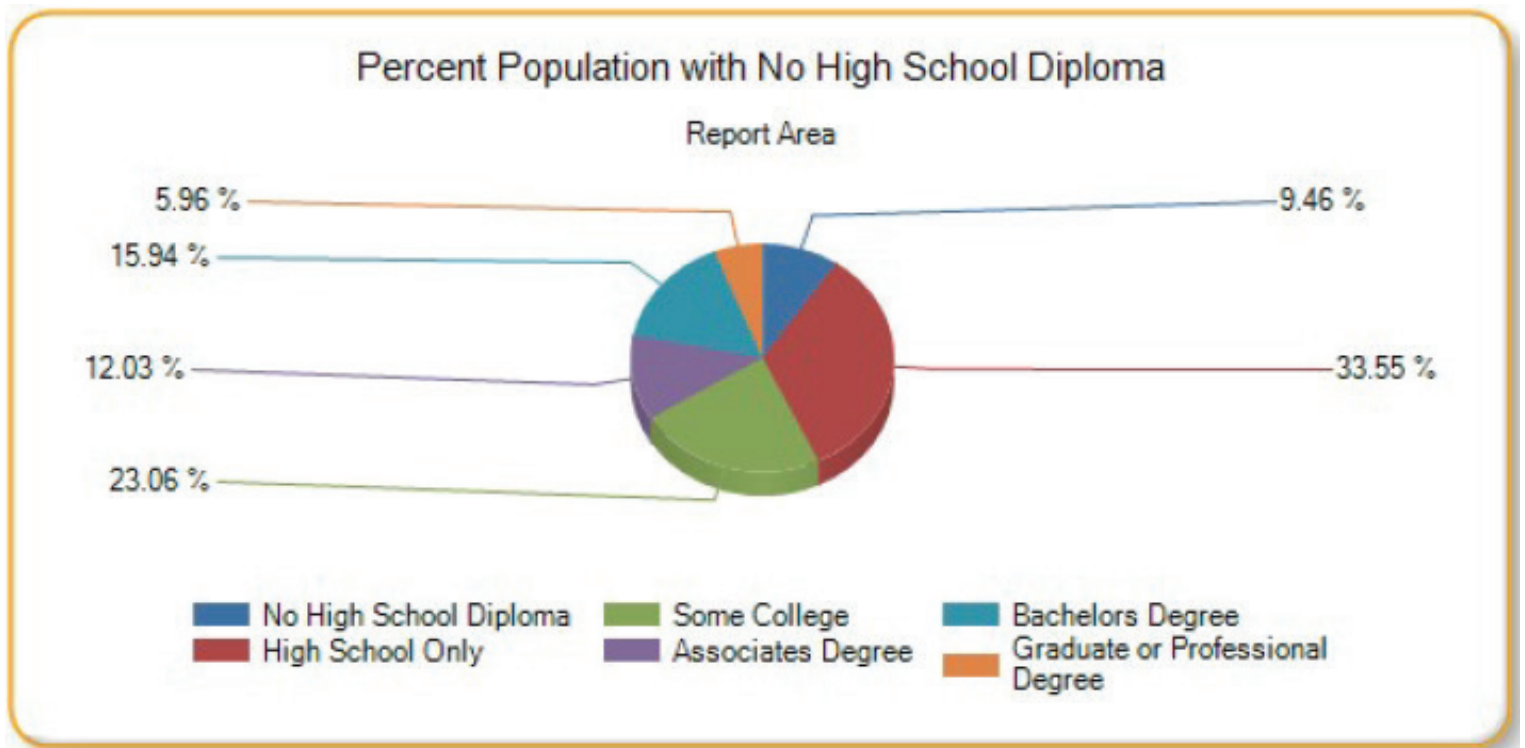
(Results based on Tri-Valley's Community Needs Assessment Survey)



# Quality of Life Indicators

## EDUCATION (2012-2016)

Report Area	Percent No High School Diploma	Percent High School Only	Percent Some College	Percent Associates Degree	Percent Bachelors Degree	Percent Graduate or Professional Degree
Report Area	<b>9.46%</b>	33.55%	23.06%	12.03%	15.94%	5.96%
Marshall County, MN	<b>10.97%</b>	36.7%	20.6%	11.8%	15.6%	4.4%
Norman County, MN	<b>9.74%</b>	40.9%	20.5%	13.2%	13%	2.6%
Polk County, MN	<b>8.93%</b>	31%	24.4%	11.9%	16.7%	7.2%
Minnesota	7.38%	25.7%	21.7%	11%	22.8%	11.5%
United States	13.02%	27.5%	21%	8.2%	18.8%	11.5%



(Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)

# Who Did We Serve?

## FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND/OR FAMILIES:

- Provided 185,433 rides.
- Provided 5,593 information and referral calls.
- Provided emergency car or home repair to 93 individuals.
- Provided referrals for emergency food assistance to 1,139 individuals.
- Provided referrals for emergency medical care to 37 individuals.
- Provided emergency rent or mortgage assistance to 177 individuals.
- Provided emergency payments to vendors for fuel and energy bills for 553 low-income individuals.
- Assisted 59 individuals complete ABE/GED and receive certificate or diploma.
- Assisted 57,139 individuals get access to reliable transportation and/or driver's license.

## FOR INFANTS/CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

- Assisted 1,177 infants and children obtain age appropriate immunizations, medical, and dental care.
- Improved the health and physical development of 1,180 infants and children as a result of providing adequate nutrition.
- Provided preschool activities to develop school readiness to 362 children.
- Ensured that 1,323 parents and other adults learned and exhibited improved parenting skills.
- Ensured that 1,306 parents and other adults learned and exhibited improved family functioning skills.

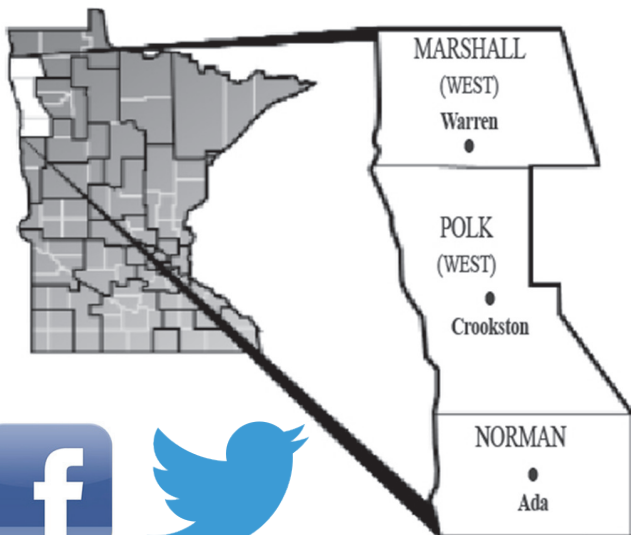
## FOR SENIORS:

- Provided programs and activities to 3,824 seniors to help maintain their independent living.

## FOR THOSE UNABLE TO WORK:

- Assisted 81 in obtaining care for their child or other dependent.
- Assisted 23,656 in obtaining access to reliable transportation.
- Assisted 392 in obtaining health care services for themselves or family member.
- Assisted 147 in obtaining safe and affordable housing.
- Assisted 1,139 in obtaining food assistance.
- Assisted 1,094 in obtaining non-emergency LIHEAP energy assistance.

## Primary Service Area Map



Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.  
102 N. Broadway / PO Box 607  
Crookston, MN 56716  
218-281-5832 • 1-800-584-7020  
[www.tvoc.org](http://www.tvoc.org)



**Tri-Valley**  
Opportunity Council, Inc.